

Consolidation of the airways is a complete disservice to the public and to the FCC's mandate.

Big corporate control of the ever-shrinking diversity on the air is limiting public access to accurate daily news and information that this government is set up to protect and preserve for the people. Case in point: Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election.

In April, Sinclair made ordered seven of its ABC-affiliated stations not to air a "Nightline" segment that featured a reading of the names of U.S. soldiers killed in Iraq in order to prevent the public from understanding gravity of the war that this President has engaged in. These are clear examples of the dangers of media consolidation.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest and provide equal time for candidates. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy.

Single perspective views generated from "News Central" far

away do not serve
the public interest.
It's more important
that we see real
people from our own
communities and more
substantive news
about issues that
matter.

Sinclair's actions
show why we need to
strengthen media
ownership rules, not
weaken them. They
show why the license
renewal process
needs to involve
more than a returned
postcard. Thank you.